

[PUBLIC LAW 600—79TH CONGRESS]

[CHAPTER 744—2D SESSION]

[H. R. 6533]

AN ACT

To authorize certain administrative expenses in the Government service, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) under such regulations as the President may prescribe, any civilian officer or employee of the Government who, in the interest of the Government, is transferred from one official station to another, including transfer from one department to another, for permanent duty, shall, except as otherwise provided herein, when authorized, in the order directing the travel, by such subordinate official or officials of the department concerned as the head thereof may designate for the purpose, be allowed and paid from Government funds the expenses of travel of himself and the expenses of transportation of his immediate family (or a commutation thereof in accordance with the Act of February 14, 1931) and the expenses of transportation, packing, crating, temporary storage, drayage, and unpacking of his household goods and personal effects (not to exceed seven thousand pounds if uncrated or eight thousand seven hundred and fifty pounds if crated or the equivalent thereof when transportation charges are based on cubic measurement): *Provided*, That advances of funds may be made to the officer or employee in accordance with said regulations under the same safeguards as are required under the Subsistence Expense Act of 1926 (5 U. S. C. 828): *Provided further*, That the allowances herein authorized shall not be applicable to civilian employees of the War Department and their dependents when transferred under the provisions of section 3 of the Act of June 5, 1942 (50 U. S. C. 763), nor to officers and employees of the Foreign Service, Department of State: *Provided further*, That no part of such expenses (including those of officers and employees of the Foreign Service, Department of State) shall be allowed or paid from Government funds where the transfer is made primarily for the convenience or benefit of the officer or employee or at his request: *Provided further*, That in case of transfer from one department to another such expenses shall be payable from the funds of the department to which the officer or employee is transferred.

(b) In lieu of the payment of actual expenses of transportation, packing, crating, temporary storage, drayage, and unpacking of household goods and personal effects, in the case of such transfers between points in continental United States, reimbursement shall be made to the officer or employee on a commuted basis (not to exceed the amount which would be allowable for the authorized weight allowance) at such rates per one hundred pounds as may be fixed by zones in regulations prescribed by the President.

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(c) Funds available for travel expenses of civilian officers and employees shall also be available for the expenses of the transportation of their immediate families, and funds available for the transportation of things shall also be available for the transportation of household goods and effects, as authorized by this Act.

SEC. 2. The Act of October 10, 1940 (5 U. S. C. 73c-1), relating to allowances for the transportation of household goods, section 5 of the Act of March 4, 1923, as amended (19 U. S. C. 48), relating to traveling and subsistence expenses of customs officers and employees, the first sentence of section 645 (a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U. S. C. 1645 (a)), relating to traveling and subsistence expenses of the families of such officers and employees, and other Acts relating to allowances to civilian officers and employees in the executive branch of the Government (except those mentioned in the second proviso clause of section 1 (a) of this Act) on transfer from one official station to another for permanent duty, are hereby repealed.

SEC. 3. The Act of February 14, 1931 (5 U. S. C. 73a), as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

"Civilian officers or employees or others rendering service to the Government shall, under regulations prescribed by the President, and unless otherwise provided in the appropriation concerned or other law, and whenever such mode of transportation is authorized or approved as more advantageous to the Government, be paid in lieu of actual expenses of transportation not to exceed 2 cents per mile for the use of privately owned motorcycles or 5 cents per mile for the use of privately owned automobiles or airplanes when engaged in necessary travel on official trips from their designated posts of duty or places of service, or 2 cents per mile for the use of privately owned motorcycles or 4 cents per mile for the use of privately owned automobiles when used on official business wholly within the limits of their official stations or places of service. In addition to the mileage allowances provided for in this section, there may be allowed reimbursement for the actual cost of ferry fares and bridge, road, and tunnel tolls."

SEC. 4. Until June 30, 1948, when authorized in an appropriation or other Act, appropriations available for travel expenses shall be available for the payment, without regard to the rates authorized by the Subsistence Expense Act of 1926, as amended (5 U. S. C. 821-833), of per diem allowances in lieu of subsistence expenses to civilian officers and employees of departments while traveling on official business outside continental United States and away from their designated posts of duty: *Provided*, That the amount of such allowances shall be determined by the head of the department concerned or by such subordinates as he may designate for the purpose, but shall in no case exceed the maximum established by regulations prescribed by the President for the locality in which the travel is performed.

SEC. 5. Persons in the Government service employed intermittently as consultants or experts and receiving compensation on a per diem when actually employed basis may be allowed travel expenses while away from their homes or regular places of business, including per diem in lieu of subsistence while at place of such employment, in accordance with the Standardized Government Travel Regulations, Subsistence Expense Act of 1926, as amended (5 U. S. C. 821-833), and the Act of February 14, 1931, as amended by this Act, and persons serving without compensation or at \$1 per annum may be allowed,

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while away from their homes or regular places of business, transportation in accordance with said regulations and said Act of February 14, 1931, as so amended, and not to exceed \$10 per diem in lieu of subsistence en route and at place of such service or employment unless a higher rate is specifically provided in an appropriation or other Act.

SEC. 6. Section 10 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (5 U. S. C. 73b), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 10. Whenever by or under authority of law actual expenses for transportation may be allowed, such allowances shall not exceed the lowest first-class rate by the transportation facility used in such transportation unless it is certified, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the President, that lowest first-class accommodations are not available or that use of a compartment or such other accommodations as may be authorized or approved by the head of the agency concerned or such subordinates as he may designate, is required for purposes of security."

SEC. 7. Appropriations for the departments shall be available, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the President, for expenses of travel of new appointees, expenses of transportation of their immediate families and expenses of transportation of their household goods and personal effects from places of actual residence at time of appointment to places of employment outside continental United States, and for such expenses on return of employees from their posts of duty outside continental United States to the places of their actual residence at time of assignment to duty outside the United States: *Provided*, That such expenses shall not be allowed new appointees unless and until the person selected for appointment shall agree in writing to remain in the Government service for the twelve months following his appointment, unless separated for reasons beyond his control. In case of a violation of such agreement any moneys expended by the United States on account of such travel and transportation shall be considered as a debt due by the individual concerned to the United States. This section shall not apply to appropriations for the Foreign Service, State Department.

SEC. 8. In purchasing motor-propelled or animal-drawn vehicles or tractors, or road, agricultural, manufacturing, or laboratory equipment, or boats, or parts, accessories, tires, or equipment thereof, or any other article or item the exchange of which is authorized by law, the head of any department or his duly authorized representative may exchange or sell similar items and apply the exchange allowances or proceeds of sales in such cases in whole or in part payment therefor: *Provided*, That any transaction carried out under the authority of this section shall be evidenced in writing.

SEC. 9. (a) Section 3709 of the Revised Statutes of the United States is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Unless otherwise provided in the appropriation concerned or other law, purchases and contracts for supplies or services for the Government may be made or entered into only after advertising a sufficient time previously for proposals, except (1) when the amount involved in any one case does not exceed \$100, (2) when the public exigencies require the immediate delivery of the articles or performance of the service, (3) when only one source of supply is available and the Government purchasing or contracting officer shall so certify, or (4) when

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the services are required to be performed by the contractor in person and are (A) of a technical and professional nature or (B) under Government supervision and paid for on a time basis. Except (1) as authorized by section 29 of the Surplus Property Act of 1944 (50 U. S. C. App. 1638), (2) when otherwise authorized by law, or (3) when the reasonable value involved in any one case does not exceed \$100, sales and contracts of sale by the Government shall be governed by the requirements of this section for advertising."

(b) Exemptions from section 3709, Revised Statutes, in other law in amounts of \$100 or less are hereby repealed.

(c) In the case of wholly owned Government corporations, this section shall apply to their administrative transactions only.

SEC. 10. Whenever a department is authorized by law to hold hearings and to subpoena witnesses for appearance at said hearings, witnesses summoned to and attending such hearings shall be entitled to the same fees and mileage, or expenses in the case of Government officers and employees, as provided by law for witnesses attending in the United States courts.

SEC. 11. The first sentence of section 3648 of the Revised Statutes (31 U. S. C. 529) is hereby amended to read as follows:

"No advance of public money shall be made in any case unless authorized by the appropriation concerned or other law."

SEC. 12. The head of any department may delegate to subordinate officials (1) the power vested in him by law to take final action on matters pertaining to the employment, direction, and general administration of personnel under his department; (2) the authority vested in him by section 3683 of the Revised Statutes (31 U. S. C. 675) to direct the purchase of articles from contingent funds; and (3) the authority vested in him by section 3828, Revised Statutes (44 U. S. C. 324), to authorize the publication of advertisements, notices or proposals.

SEC. 13. Appropriations available for the procurement of supplies and material or equipment shall be available for the purchase and maintenance of special clothing and equipment for the protection of personnel in the performance of their assigned tasks.

SEC. 14. The head of each department is authorized, under such rules and regulations as the President may prescribe, to pay cash awards to civilian officers and employees (or to their estates) who make meritorious suggestions which will result in improvement or economy in the operations of his department and which have been adopted for use and to incur necessary expenses for the honorary recognition of exceptional or meritorious service: *Provided*, That no award shall be paid to any officer or employee for any suggestion which represents a part of the normal requirements of the duties of his position. With the exception of the War and Navy Departments, the amount of any one award shall not exceed \$1,000 and the total of cash awards paid during any fiscal year in any department shall not exceed \$25,000. Payments may be made from the appropriation for the activity primarily benefiting or may be distributed among appropriations for activities benefiting as the head of the department determines. A cash award shall be in addition to the regular compensation of the recipient and the acceptance of such cash award shall constitute an agreement that the use by the United States of the suggestion for which the award is made

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shall not form the basis of a further claim of any nature upon the United States by him, his heirs or assigns.

All other Acts or parts of Acts in conflict with the provisions of this section are hereby repealed.

Sec. 15. The head of any department, when authorized in an appropriation or other Act, may procure the temporary (not in excess of one year) or intermittent services of experts or consultants or organizations thereof, including stenographic reporting services, by contract, and in such cases such service shall be without regard to the civil-service and classification laws (but as to agencies subject to the Classification Act at rates not in excess of the per diem equivalent of the highest rate payable under the Classification Act, unless other rates are specifically provided in the appropriation or other law) and, except in the case of stenographic reporting services by organizations, without regard to section 3709, Revised Statutes, as amended by this Act.

Sec. 16. (a) Section 5 of the Act of July 16, 1914 (5 U. S. C. 78), is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. (a) Unless specifically authorized by the appropriation concerned or other law, no appropriation shall be expended to purchase or hire passenger motor vehicles for any branch of the Government other than those for the use of the President of the United States, the secretaries to the President, or the heads of the executive departments enumerated in 5 U. S. C. 1."

"(b) Excepting appropriations for the Military and Naval Establishments, no appropriation shall be available for the purchase, maintenance, or operation of any aircraft unless specific authority for the purchase, maintenance, or operation thereof has been or is provided in such appropriation.

"(c) Unless otherwise specifically provided, no appropriation available for any department shall be expended—"

"(1) to purchase any passenger motor vehicle (exclusive of busses, ambulances, and station wagons), at a cost, completely equipped for operation, and including the value of any vehicle exchanged, in excess of the maximum price therefor, if any, established pursuant to law by a Government agency and in no event more than such amount as may be specified in an appropriation or other Act, which shall be in addition to the amount required for transportation;

"(2) for the maintenance, operation, and repair of any Government-owned passenger motor vehicle or aircraft not used exclusively for official purposes; and 'official purposes' shall not include the transportation of officers and employees between their domiciles and places of employment, except in cases of medical officers on out-patient medical service and except in cases of officers and employees engaged in field work the character of whose duties makes such transportation necessary and then only as to such latter cases when the same is approved by the head of the department concerned." Any officer or employee of the Government who willfully uses or authorizes the use of any Government-owned passenger motor vehicle or aircraft, or of any passenger motor vehicle or aircraft leased by the

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Government, for other than official purposes or otherwise violates the provisions of this paragraph shall be suspended from duty by the head of the department concerned, without compensation, for not less than one month, and shall be suspended for a longer period or summarily removed from office if circumstances warrant. The limitations of this paragraph shall not apply to any motor vehicles or aircraft for official use of the President, the heads of the executive departments enumerated in 5 U. S. C. 1, ambassadors, ministers, chargés d'affaires, and other principal diplomatic and consular officials.

"(d) In the budgets for the fiscal year 1948 and subsequent fiscal years there shall be submitted in detail estimates for such necessary appropriations as are intended to be used for purchase or hire of passenger motor vehicles or for purchase, maintenance, or operation of aircraft, specifying the sums required, the public purposes for which said conveyances are intended, the number of currently owned conveyances to be continued in use, and the officials or employees by whom all of such conveyances are to be used.

"(e) The acquisition of aircraft or passenger motor vehicles by any agency by transfer from another department of the Government shall be considered as a purchase within the meaning hereof."

(b) The second paragraph of section 3 of the Act of March 18, 1904 (33 Stat. 142; 5 U. S. C. 77), is hereby repealed.

Section 4 of the Act of February 3, 1905 (33 Stat. 687; 5 U. S. C. 77), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"All motor vehicles acquired and used for official purposes of the departmental service in the District of Columbia shall have conspicuously imprinted thereon at all times the full name of the executive department or other branch of the public service to which the same belong and in the service of which the same are used."

SEC. 17. (a) The following statutes or parts of statutes are hereby repealed:

Sections 1779 and 192, as amended, of the Revised Statutes (5 U. S. C. 102);

The Act of January 21, 1881 (44 U. S. C. 323);

Section 3 of the Act of March 15, 1898 (31 U. S. C. 678).

(b) That portion of the Act of July 31, 1876, (44 U. S. C. 321; 19 Stat. 105), reading as follows: "and in no case of advertisement for contracts for the public service shall the same be published in any newspaper published and printed in the District of Columbia unless the supplies or labor covered by such advertisement are to be furnished or performed in said District of Columbia" is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof "or in the adjoining counties of Maryland or Virginia".

(c) That portion of the Act of June 23, 1906 (3 U. S. C. 43) reading as follows: "not exceeding \$25,000 per annum" is hereby amended to read, "not exceeding \$40,000 per annum".

SEC. 18. The word "department" as used in this Act shall be construed to include independent establishments, other agencies, wholly owned Government corporations (the transactions of which corporations shall be subject to the authorizations and limitations of this Act, except that section 9 shall apply to their administrative transactions only), and the government of the District of Columbia, but

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shall not include the Senate, House of Representatives, or office of the Architect of the Capitol, or the officers or employees thereof. The words "continental United States" as used herein shall be construed to mean the forty-eight States and the District of Columbia. The word "Government" shall be construed to include the government of the District of Columbia. The word "appropriation" shall be construed as including funds made available by legislation under section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act, approved December 6, 1945.

SEC. 19. Sections 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 14, and 15 of this Act shall not apply to persons whose pay and allowances are established by the Pay Readjustment Act of 1942.

SEC. 20. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act shall become effective on the first day of the third calendar month following the enactment hereof.

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